Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, asthma, respiratory illness, cancer, and unintentional injuries, resulting in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed workdays for parents. The requirement for safe and healthy housing has become even more urgent as people spend more time than ever in residential environments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect the health of Michigan families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services.

Full funding to federal programs such as those listed above will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the residents and families of Michigan. For example:

- In Michigan, 25% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 19% of children live in poverty.
- 64% of Michigan housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Approximately 11% of adults and 9% of children (2018) have current asthma in Michigan. The 2014 asthma hospitalization rate for adults was 1.8 times higher in Saginaw County than in the rest of the state.
- Children and adults with asthma in Michigan report an average of between 3.8 and 4 asthma triggers at home.
- In 2019, 3,914 Michigan children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more). Average blood lead testing activity fell by 69% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The lifetime cost of medical care for hospitalizations and deaths due to falls among older adults in Michigan was estimated at $321 million in 2009. The percentage of the population in Michigan above age 65 is expected to rise to 20% by 2030.
- Nine counties in southern Michigan have predicted indoor radon screening levels above the EPA action level.

National Center for Healthy Housing

February 2021. For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues...

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